



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate,  
and Members of the Senate  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi and Speaker Saiki:

I am sending this letter to wholeheartedly endorse Laura Kaakua as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Most recently, Laura worked as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Hawai'i Land Trust since 2019, setting and implementing its strategic vision and goals to further its mission to protect and steward the lands that sustain Hawai'i for current and future generations.

She also served as the Aloha 'Aina Program Manager at Trust for Public Land, a Lecturer at the William S. Richardson School of Law, and a Law Clerk for the Honorable Greg K Nakamura. Through these roles, she demonstrated management, conservation, and land acquisition leadership results and facilitated large-scale ecosystem restoration planning efforts with diverse partners.

Laura earned a J.D. from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law and a B.A. degree in political science and communication from Boston College.

I have every confidence that Laura will serve the state well in her capacity as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo,

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i